

**ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to an isolated Nurrl gene including one or more mutations selected from the group consisting of Met97Val (M97V), His103Arg (H103R), Tyr121del (Y121del) and Tyr122del (Y122del), or a functional fragment or variant thereof, as well as to proteins or peptides encoded thereby. Further, the invention also relates to cell cultures and transgenic animals comprising a mutated gene or a gene fragment as models for the study of psychotic disorders, such as schizophrenia and/or manic depressive disorder, as well as for the identification of effective therapies and drugs for the treatment of said disorders. In an additional aspect, the invention relates to novel drugs developed by use of one or more of the mutations according to the invention for the treatment and/or prevention of psychotic disorders. Finally, the invention relates to diagnostic methods wherein the mutations according to the invention are identified, as well as to kits for performing such methods.